Mrs. Robert Morrison,
3353 Albatross (M) 3-34

## In This Number

### Fall Flower Show Premium List

Gardenias . . . . . By Peter D. Barnhart
Informal Borders . . . . . By Hazel Boyer Braun

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# The California Garden

*Published Monthly by the San Diego Floral Association*
*One Dollar per Year, Ten Cents per Copy*

Vol. 25 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST, 1933 No. 2

# San Diego Floral Association
## PREMIUM LIST

Twenty-seventh Annual Fall Flower Show, Saturday and Sunday
August 26 and 27, 1933, Main Plaza, Balboa Park
Opening Saturday 2 p. m., Admission 25c

### SECTION A—AMATEURS

**Dahlias**

* 1. Best Collection of Dahlias, one of each variety. Prize Competitive Cup to be won for three years.
2. Best Three Blooms Cactus, one or more varieties.
3. Best Three Blooms Semi-Cactus, one or more varieties.
4. Best Three Blooms Decorative, one or more varieties.
5. Best Three Blooms Miniature Decorative, one or more varieties.
6. Best Three Blooms Fancy or Variegated, one or more varieties.
7. Best Three Blooms Peony, one or more varieties.
9. Best Three Blooms Show, one or more varieties.
10. Best Three Blooms Semi-double or Duplex, one or more varieties.
11. Best Three Blooms, Single, one or more varieties.
12. Best One Bloom Cactus.
13. Best One Bloom Semi-Cactus.
14. Best One Bloom Decorative.
15. Best One Bloom Miniature Decorative.
16. Best One Bloom Fancy or Variegated.
17. Best One Bloom Peony.
18. Best One Bloom Pompon.
19. Best One Bloom Show.
20. Best One Bloom Semi-double or Duplex.
21. Best One Bloom, Single.
22. Best Collection Cactus Dahlia, one bloom each variety.
23. Best Collection Semi-Cactus, one bloom each variety.
24. Best Collection Decorative, one bloom each variety.
25. Best Collection Peony, one bloom each variety.
26. Best Collection "Charm" Dahlias (miniature dahlias of peony-flowered type) three blooms each variety.
27. Best Collection Pompons, three blooms each variety.
28. Best Collection Show, one bloom each variety.
29. Best Collection Semi-double or Duplex, three blooms each variety.
30. Best Collection Single, three blooms each variety.

* 31. Most Artistic Basket of Dahlias, in Show, use of other foliage permitted.
* 32. Most Artistic Arrangement Vase or Bowl of Dahlias.
* **DAHLIA SWEEPSTAKES San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.**

### SECTION B—Open to All Competition

**Dahlias**

* 33. Best Keeping Dahlia, excepting Pompons and show varieties, judged at 2 P. M. last day of show. No preservative treatment allowed.
34. Best Established Three-year-old Seedling.
* 35. Best Collection Unregistered Seedlings.
36. Best 1933 Seedling.
37. Most Artistic Basket of Pompons in Show, use of other foliage permitted.

* 38. Best six blooms, one bloom each of six classes, one bloom only in each vase. No Pompons.
* 39. Best Six Blooms, six varieties, California productions. Names attached. Harris Seed Company Cup.
* One Best Bloom Exhibited at Show, stem and foliage considered.

## SECTION C—PROFESSIONALS

### Dahlias

* 40. Best General Display Arranged for Effect, potted plants and foliage allowed for embellishment.
41. Best Display of Dahlias, not less than six varieties.
42. Best Six Blooms, any variety.
43. Best Six Blooms Cactus, one or more varieties.
44. Best Six Blooms Semi-Cactus, one or more varieties.
45. Best Six Blooms Collarettes, one or more varieties.
46. Best Six Blooms Decorative, one or more varieties.
47. Best Six Blooms of Fancy Variegated, one or more varieties.
48. Best Six Blooms Peony, one or more varieties.
49. Best Six Blooms Pompons, one or more varieties.
50. Best Six Blooms Show, one or more varieties.
51. Best Six Blooms Semi-double or Duplex, one or more varieties.
52. Best Collection Cactus Dahlias, one bloom each variety.
53. Best Collection Semi-Cactus, one bloom each variety.
54. Best Collection Collarettes, one bloom each variety.
55. Best Collection Decorative, one bloom each variety.
56. Best Collection Fancy or Variegated, one bloom each variety.
57. Best Collection Peony Flowered, one bloom each variety.
58. Best Collection Pompons, three blooms each variety.
59. Best Collection Show, one bloom each variety.
60. Best Collection Semi-double or Duplex, three blooms each.
61. Best Collection Single Dahlias, three blooms each variety.
62. Best Collection of California Dahlias, twelve blooms, twelve varieties.
* 63. Best Largest Collection Registered Varieties. Names attached.
* 64. Best Dahlia Bed or Garden.

## SECTION D—AMATEURS

### Zinnias

* 65. Best Collection of Zinnias.
66. Best Three Blooms Zinnias, Red or Red Shades.
67. Best Three Blooms Zinnias, White or White Shades.
68. Best Three Blooms Zinnias, Pink or Pink Shades.
69. Best Three Blooms Zinnias, Orange or Orange Shades.
70. Best Three Blooms Zinnias, Yellow or Yellow Shades.
71. Best Three Blooms Zinnias, Lavender or Lavender Shades.
72. Best Three Blooms, any other color.
73. Best Three Blooms, picotte type.
74. Best Twenty-five Blooms Zinnias, small Mexican.
75. Best Collection Lilliput Zinnias.
76. Best Arranged Vase or Bowl of Zinnias, greenery allowed.
77. Best Arranged Basket of Zinnias, greenery allowed.
* **ZINNIA SWEEPSTAKES. San Diego Floral Association Bronze Medal.**

## SECTION E—AMATEURS

### General

78. Best Collection Asters, double type.
79. Best Collection Asters, single type.
80. Best Arranged Vase, Bowl or Dish of Asters, any variety.
81. Best Arranged Basket of Asters, any variety, greenery allowed.
82. Best Arranged Basket of Flowers.
83. Best Arranged Vase, Bowl or Dish of Flowers.
84. Best Arrangement of flowers in Shades of Yellow in basket or bowl.
85. Best arrangement of flowers in Shades of Pink in basket or bowl.
86. Best arrangement of flowers in Shades of Lavender and Blue in basket or bowl.
87. Best Arrangement of Flowers in Shades of White and Cream in basket or bowl.
88. Best Display of African Marigolds.
89. Best Display of French Marigolds.
90. Best Display of Single Petunias.
91. Best Display of Double Petunias.

92. Best Collection of Perennials, not less than six varieties.
93. Best Collection of Annuals, not less than six varieties.
94. Best Display of Any Other Flower Not Otherwise Classified.
95. Best Exhibit of Potted Fibrous tall growing Begonias.
96. Best Exhibit of Potted Fibrous low growing Begonias.
97. Best One Specimen Potted Fibrous Begonia.
98. Best Collection of Potted Tuberous Begonias.
99. Best One Specimen Potted Tuberous Begonia.
100. Best Collection Rex Begonias grown in pots or other receptacle.
101. Best Collection of Ferns.
102. Best Decorative House Plant.
103. Best Flowering Vine (flowers and foliage).
104. Best Collection of Cut Sprays Flowering Trees or Shrubs.
105. Best Collection Coleus.
106. Best New Flower or Plant not before exhibited.

## SWEEPSTAKES FOR CLASSES 82 AND 87 INCLUSIVE

**First and Second Prizes**

107. Still life flower pictures in shadow boxes.
108. Best arrangement of flowers in copper or brass container.
109. Best French Bouquet.
110. Best Specimen Rex Begonia, San Diego Seedling, grown in pot or other receptacle.
*111. Best General Exhibit of Begonias grown in pots or boxes.
112. Best Specimen Maidenhair Fern.
113. Best Specimen Fern other than Maidenhair.
114. Best Potted Plant in Flower for Patio or Garden.
115. Best Fern Hanging Basket.
116. Best Hanging Basket other than fern.
117. Best Exhibit of summer flowering lilies.
118. Best Display of Gladiolas.
*119. Best Collection of Fuchsias.
*120. Best Display of Cacti.
*121. Best Display of Succulents.
*122. Best arranged Rock Garden.
*123. Best Dish of Growing Succulents and Cacti.
*124. Best miniature garden; limit 18x24 inches.
*125. Best Collection of Decorative Plants and Flowers, arranged for effect in space 100 square feet.
126. Best Collection of Twenty-five Shrubs for garden use.
127. Best Five Vines.
128. Best New Plant or Flower not exhibited before.
129. Best Collection of Potted Petunias.
130. Best Collection of Zinnias.
131. Best Collection of Asters.
*132. Best Arranged Basket of Flowers.
133. Best Arranged Basket of Gladiolas.
134. Best Exhibit of Summer Flowering lilies.
135. Best Exhibit of Water Lilies.
136. Best Institutional or Service Display of Plants and Flowers; Quality and Arrangement to be main points.
137. Best Exhibit of Garden Pottery (limit 20 pieces).

* **OUTSTANDING DISPLAY IN SHOW. San Diego Floral Association Silver Medal.**

## RULES

1. All exhibits must be in place and properly entered by 11 a. m. of the first day of the Show so that judging may be completed and awards made before opening. All vases, baskets, etc., belonging to exhibitors, must be called for Monday morning, not later than 11:00 o'clock. **No exhibitor will be allowed to be present while judging is going on.**
2. All pot plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor at least three months; all other flowers and plants except collected wild flowers must have been grown by the exhibitor, except where used for table decoration.
3. The committee on awards is authorized to give suitable award for any meritorious exhibit not included in classes named above.
4. **Exhibits can be entered in one class only.**
5. Vases are loaned without charge for cut flowers in the competitive classes.
6. Exhibits are, from the commencement of the Show, under the jurisdiction of the Show officials, and no exhibit shall be removed during or after the close

of the Show without the authority of the officials in charge.

7. Entries will not be considered by judges unless meritorious.
8. All Exhibits must be labeled with the correct names of the plants on white cards 2x3 inches, which will be furnished without charge. Names of exhibitors in competitive classes positively must appear on exhibits until after awards have been made. (Entries in class 136 excepted from this rule.)
9. In classes where a given number of blooms is specified, any excess or deficiency of count shall constitute cause for disqualification.
10. All Exhibitors must place their names on containers for identification.
11. All exhibits are staged in conformity with the rules of the Show. Deviation from the above rules may constitute cause for disqualification.
12. The Floral Association invites exhibits, however small, if meritorious. Exhibits of single specimens of flowers or plants will be duly considered.
13. Baskets and vases will be judged for arrangement and quality of blooms.
14. No professional or no amateur directly or indirectly connected with a professional shall enter an amateur class.
15. Class 122, ROCK GARDENS to be judged on the following points: Arrangements and effectiveness, 40%; adaptability of material, 20%; distinctiveness, 15%; quality of material, 15%; color effect, 10%.

* Indicates cup or other trophy in class so indicated.

**NO FEE IS CHARGED FOR MAKING ENTRIES IN THIS SHOW**

**An Amateur** is one who does not engage in horticulture or gardening for profit and who is not directly or indirectly connected with one who engages in horticulture or gardening for profit.

**A Display** is an arrangement for quality and artistic effect.

**A Collection** is a variety of kinds brought together.

**Dahlias** will be judged according to the points recommended by American Dahlia Society, which are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Color | 20 |
| Stem and Foliage | 25 |
| (Stems not less than 12-in. long) | |
| Substance | 15 |
| Form | 20 |
| Size | 20 |
| | 100 |

Name of Chairman will appear in daily papers later.

## A WALLED GARDEN

### By Ada Perry

One of the most beautiful of the city's walled gardens was "host" to the Floral Association in July. This garden, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Julius Wangenheim, opened its doors on the Sunday afternoon of the 23rd and the garden enthusiasts of the association wandered into the lovely enclosure at Third and Juniper.

The inviting exterior of the Wangenheim garden which is hung with blooming bignonia cherere and philadephus (syringa) tempts the interest whenever it is passed and many welcomed the opportunity to enter the walls. The interior is well worth a visit.

It is strictly a family garden which perhaps accounted for the fact that every one calling that day felt at home at once. Architecturally it was awarded a coveted prize just this year. So it is a worthy effort in gardening as well as a delightful spot in San Diego.

By using one's imagination a great deal the place can be visualized as it once no doubt existed, a slanting rough lot of the kind that city residents have so often on their hands to convert into a home.

Now three terraces divide the expanse and by means of artistic garden building they are transformed into a delightful vista from the east windows and the veranda of the house. There are numerous flower beds and shrubbery borders as well, and a roomy loggia on the south. The trees in the place deserve special mention. There are a number of them, more than one could believe possible in a town planting, and their tall tops give a depth to the garden that adds to its charm.

The trees are also of kinds perfectly adapted to this climate but not planted as generally as peppers and palms. Their names were secured through the courtesy of C. I. Jerabek, Floral Association plant expert. Grouped in the corner of the south and east walls are two podocarpus macrophylla (columnar in form with dark green, fluffy foliage), one podocarpus elongata (mixed dark and light green fluffy foliage and spreading), one metrocideros robusta (large and branching with dark gray-green foliage and red flowers), and two maytenus boaria ("mayten trees" with foliage resembling smilax.)

A tall and slender eugenia and pittosporum of like form and a double flowering peach also grow along the east wall. Elsewhere in the garden casuarinas and a flowering eucalyptus lift their heads to the sky.

The use of water in this garden is an example to all southern Californians. A wall fountain inside on the east wall is the source of a little stream which flows from it down a narrow runway in the walk into a long pool on the second level. This pool is planted to lilies but not too many of them. There is plenty of surface to mirror the sky. Located in the third level is a shallow bird bath some four feet in diameter, room for a dozen mockers and warblers and ground robins.

There were plenty of flowers in the garden including stocks, phlox, pinks, petunias, heliotrope, iris, delphinium and michaelmas daisies.

The shrubbery bit best liked by this observer was a pomegranate bordered by dwarf pomegranate. Blue and white plumbago planted together were pleasing and variegated duranta, pretty but not so often seen, decorated another portion of the wall. Mandevilla or Chilian jasmine ornamented the loggia with its fine white blossoms.

Mrs. Wangenheim was assisted in receiving by her sister, Alice Klauber. Punch and cookies were served every one and tasted particularly delicious. This latter comment is a tribute to hostessinf, not gardening.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THOSE WHO INTEND TO EXHIBIT DALHIAS THIS FALL

Begin now to look for blooms for fall showing and debud. One should be quite ruthless in this operation if one expects to exhibit; for, while every dahlia lover knows that the natural, graceful growth of blooms is more decorative for home use, the show blooms will be disqualified if the debudding is not timely and thorough.

About a week or ten days before showing, stake the heads to prevent the snapping of necks by sudden or violent gusts of wind.

Any desirable bloom that promises to mature too early for a scheduled showing may be shaded by a wire stake, bent at its head into a disk and the disk thus formed covered with cheese-cloth. The screen not only retards the ripening of the blooms but prevents the fading of the color.

Dahlias, which, of course, at this time are ready to bloom, are ready for liquid fertilizer. If a commercial fertilizer is used, a product should be secured containing an adequate percentage of potash.

And again—do not neglect the debudding process. Mrs. G. W. Gardner.

## PRESERVING GARDEN FRAGRANCE

A friend who carried the fragrance of my garden around the world, has asked me to write again for these pages, a description of this gift package which may always suggest "home" to a Californian, and may carry refreshment to our friends, particularly those who dwell in city apartments and long for a garden.

I keep a yard or two of white organdy in my work basket; when a friend is to be remembered, it is easy to cut the organdy into four inch squares, and tint them according to the fragrance that happens to be seasonal. The small squares are then sewed into tiny bags that, when filled, are tied with ribbons of the same color.

For Lemon Verbena leaves the bags are lemon color or pale green; for orange blossoms, orange tint—and it has proved to be worth while to dip orange and lime blossoms in melted paraffin as this preserves them and does not kill the fragrance. Rose geranium, also rose petals, call for shades of rose; mint geranium and members of the mint family are at home in deep green sacks; sweet lavender, of course, has a violet tinted bag, as do the violets when they may be sent; mignonette, apple geranium and lemon geranium add variety to the bouquet of fragrance and seem happy in any color.

A small rather flat box does not take too much room in the travel luggage, and may, happily, carry a photograph of the garden.

—Hazel Boyer Braun.

## AN AVIATOR'S BOUTONNIERE

**By Florence I. Andrews**

Not the least of the many floral wonders of San Diego is the twenty foot pink hollyhock which with many others of large size are growing in the patio at the home of Mrs. L. L. Rowan of 1003 Alberta Place.

The most remarkable feature of this group of flowers is that they were raised from seed planted in the ground in October, 1930.

These plants have been given no particular care nor any attention paid to fertilization of the soil where they are growing.

At any rate we echo Ripley's familiar "Believe It or Not," as the hollyhock continues to sway gayly fifteen feet above the wall, the sight of which must often give honey-questing bees attacks of dizziness.

Mrs. Rowan fears that if the growth continues, it may become a menace to air navigation.

# The California Garden

Editor
Silas B. Osborn

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

**The San Diego Floral Association**

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
P. O. Box 323 San Diego, Cal.

Main Office, San Diego, California

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Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post office at Point Loma, California, under the Act of March 3. 1879.

California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants Association.



MONTHLY ADVERTISING RATES

One Page ..... $10.00 Half Page ..... $5.00
Quarter Page ..... 2.50 Eighth Page ..... 1.50
Advertising Copy should be in by the 1st of each Month



Subscription to Magazine, $1.00 per year; Membership $1.50 per year; Magazine and Membership combined $2.00 per year.

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## SEED'S ROMANCE SUBJECT OF FLORAL ASSOCIATION TALK

Beginning with the subject "The Romance of the Seed," Charles Gibbs Adams of Los Angeles and president of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America, gave the San Diego Floral Association a memorable evening for its June meeting.

Mr. Adams' talk dealt with the intelligence of plants and since he is possessed of a markedly cultivated personality his hearers enjoyed a combination of knowledge and charm.

The dandelions on your lawn shorten their stems to elude your mower and the honeysuckle gropes toward the nearest support, Mr. Adams informed the meeting, and then went on with some wonderful examples of this plant intelligence in the matter of seed. The canyon maple develops wings on its seeds in order that they may fly away, and the loco weed balloons that will roll away over the mesas. The California lilac shoots its seed, but the black sage holds its seeds in cups till the rain spills them out and they may germinate in the dampness. The peach tempts you to pick and eat it and thus distribute its seed. The bright berried shrubs also attract you into carrying away their seeds.

The foxtail "sticks" its way around, and so does the lemonade berry. The long pendulous branches of the eucalyptus act as slings for their seeds.

Mr. Adams said also that seeds of cottonwood trees are distributed over the desert for scores of years before someone digs an irrigation ditch and they can germinate as if by magic.

Among other informative remarks was the fact that fig blossoms are inside the fig.

Mr. Adams began his education in plants early because he was a grammar school pupil of Miss Kate Sessions in San Bernardino some years ago.

An election of officers in the Floral Association produced but one change. John Bakkers was succeeded by Erskine J. Campbell as treasurer. The officers and directors are now: Mrs. Mary Greer, Walter Birch, Erskine J. Campbell, Mrs. Mary Ward, Alice Halliday, Mrs. Robert Morrison, Robert R. McLean and Kate Sessions.—(Ada Perry, San Diego Union.)

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Diego Floral Association, held June 28, the following officers were elected to serve for the year 1933-1934: Pres. Mrs. M. A. Greer; Vice-Pres. Mr. Walter Birch; Treasurer, Mr. Erskine Campbell; Secretary, Mrs. Mary E. Ward. Mr. Silas Osborn was appointed editor of the California Garden.

## GERMAN CATCHFLY

In the garden of Mrs. Mary A. Greer, 2972 First Street, are some interesting German flowers. These are attractive little blossoms and look very much like those of the flax but on closer examination one will see they are *Lychnis viscara,* an extremely free-flowering perennial with both single and double, dainty flowers in colors of blue, pink, white, rose and cardinal.

The dwarf varieties are very useful for border plants or in rock gardens as they grow in a tufted or compact habit. The taller kinds make a beautiful effect when planted in beds of one color. But to get the best results of the various varieties they should be planted in a sunny location. C. I. JERABEK.

## AUGUST WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

**By Dean Blake, Weather Bureau**

The warmest month in San Diego is August. It is well known, though, that the probabilities of very high temperatures are greatest in September, when dry north and east winds sometimes cause the thermometer to rise above 90 degrees. But hot, dry days are rare in August, and while the average maximum and minimum temperatures over a long period of years are higher than those of any other month, it must not be inferred that the month is unbearably and enervatingly warm. On the contrary, the mean maximum of 74 degrees and the mean minimum of 64 degrees are very comfortable temperatures in any latitude.

Like the other summer months, there is considerable cloudy weather on the coast during the night and early morning hours with low ceilings and light fog at times. But, barring an occasional local thunderstorm, warm and dry weather prevails in the mountains day after day. The county offers all gradation of weather within a distance of a few miles, and your preference is sure to be found with a little searching.

Over most of the county the summers are usually rainless or no hindrance is offered to out-of-door activities or sports. Naturally, with the winds blowing directly over the land from the ocean, the humidity is high in the coastal districts, but San iego even then has a relatively dry climate for one of the marine type.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The next regular meeting of the San Diego Floral Association will be held the third Tuesday in September, the August meeting being cancelled on account of Summer Symphony Concert.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE LOVERS OF SWEET PEAS

Every lover of the sweet pea knows that this is the month in which to plant the seed for winter blooming. The home gardener, however, before the seed is put into the ground, begins to lament the shortness of the season of his favorite flower. Perhaps a plan, which I have evolved during several seasons of experimentation, will help others, as it has helped me, to lengthen the season of actual bloom.

I plant my seeds in rows from north to south, putting my seed for the winter blooming on one side of the trellis and that for summer blooming on the opposite side. The rows run from north to south for the possibly obvious reason that in this way neither side is shaded from the sun more than the other. This plan gives me continuous bloom over a very long period of time, with a concentration of effort in the matter of watering, fertilization, etc.

Another suggestion I have to offer is that the true lover of this particular flower plant this year some of the real old-fashioned sweet peas, which, with their delightful fragrance and waxy texture, will bring back to the garden some of the charm which has been lost in the hybridization of the sweet pea away from its original form.

Many of the better seed catalogues are specializing in this revival and I speak with assurance, because of my delight in the new-old flower last year, when I say that, if you try the innovation, the fragrance and delicacy of the bloom will more than compensate for a possible difference in blossom-size. You will also be repaid in the profusion of the bloom.

—Antoinette K. Gardner.

## SEEDS THAT GERMINATE AFTER A LONG PERIOD

From time to time controversy breaks out over the possibility of stored or buried seeds germinating after long periods, but scientists generally are skeptical of these cases. Evidence for the possibility, however, has recently been added by the director of Kew Gardens, London, who reports a remarkable incident.

A kind of Japanese lotus was discovered in a peat deposit in Manchuria and some of its fruits were sent to the British Museum. A seed sent to Kew was carefully tended and a plant successfully raised. Estimates based on erosion and vegetation near the spot where the seeds were found indicate that they are more than a century old and may even be four centuries, or older.

## MAGAZINES NEEDED

In order to complete files of the California Garden, the numbers listed below are needed: July 1911, August 1911, September 1911, November 1911, October 1911.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. T. D. Sullivan, Denver, Colo.
Mrs. W. H. Ware, San Francisco.
Mrs. Zula Kenyon, San Diego.
Mrs. Frederick Jacobson, Loma Portal.

## GARDENIAS

### By Peter D. Barnhart

A name to conjure with, a name that is conjured with by lovers of plant life in this Southland. A Genus of plants of about 60 species, five of which, and one variety we have been playing with during the past decade, with varying degrees of success and failure, mostly failure. The pure white color is fascinating; the delightful perfume bewitching; a combination of qualities that have led us on and on in dreams growing them in our gardens. Oh! the visions and dreams lovers of plant life do have when practicing the Art of Gardening. It is a good thing for the world that such is the case. It soothes the ache of many a sorrowful heart, and smooths the path of life in which humanity must walk. There is some confusion in the minds of nurserymen who catalog the different species as to nomenclature. Bailey in his Cyclopedia of Horticulture is to be the authority on that phase of this article. Relative to the culture of five species, and one variety I may say, is based on experience, experiment, and observation. Some of these experiments have been expensive, some experiences amusing; all of them interesting, to me at least.

I shall begin the story with Gardenia jasminoides. It has the distinction of three proper names: G. florida; G. radicans, and one common name; Cape Jasmine; a native of China. A number of years ago, when there was but one house on the corner of First St. and Vermont Ave., Los Angeles, I had charge of the garden. The Madame of the home, and its presiding genius, visited San Antonio, Texas, when this species of the tribe was in full flower. So enthusiastic did she become over its purity of color, and sweet perfume, that she ordered six plants sent to her California home. Balled plants of about 25 pounds weight, for which she paid 12 dollars. The express charges were 25 dollars more. They arrived in perfect condition, and it was my job to plant them. I expressed doubts of their adaptability to our climate. The woman belonged to that class of people who believe that if we concentrate our thoughts on a desired achievement, we are sure to succeed, and so she thought Gardenias would grow in her garden as they did in Texas. She made the significant remark: "You should see the steam rise out of the earth down there during the morning." Has anyone ever seen steam rise out of the earth at any time in Southern California? Those plants survived the dry atmosphere, and cool nights two years. She paid $37 for the experiment, and I learned the lesson free of charge. But we soon forgot such lessons, and in our enthusiasm try the experiment the second, and sometimes the third time. I belong to that class, as the sequel of this story will show. Five years ago it was my privilege to visit the Hale Gardens in Santa Barbara, just when G. Thunbergia was in full flower. Readers of these lines picture in your minds if you can, an evergreen shrub, of bright glossy foliage, covered with pure white flowers, salver shaped, four inches across, then you will know the wondrous beauty of the plant, and the only one ever I have seen that was so happy. I got two cuttings from the plant. They are now three feet high, one growing in full sun, the other in partial shade, neither one show any disposition to flower as did their mother. Brother Bailey says of this species: "Dwarf growing, and perhaps not now in cult. in this country." It comes to us from South Africa.

G. Rothmannia, also a south African subject is a very dwarf evergreen species. This one was introduced to us by the late Dr. Franceschi. The flowers are cream colored, and endure but a day. They are folowed by gray colored fruits, about the size of a hen's egg, and remain perfect for years. Here is an ideal hedge plant of dwarf habit, which needs no shearing to be beautiful.

Beverly Hills Nursey has a quantity of plants grown from seed of the first plants introduced. G. lucida, and G. amoena were both given a try out by the late Frank J. Hart in his Botanic Garden, near Sierra Madre, and like all tropical things we have tried to grow, succumbed to our arid days and cool summer nights. And now we come to Gardenia sinensis grandiflora which I'm inclined to think is a species. Anyway we shall not argue the point at this time. Recently while visiting the Coolidge Gardens in Pasadena, I saw hundreds of these plants in full bloom, in the open. My enthusiasm bubbled over at the scene of so much beauty, and sweetness. Then the question arose in my mind why this happy condition of those plants? Is it because of the sandy soil, or the water, or the climate? Or all these elements combined. A skillful gardener assures me that it is climate; a warmer atmosphere at night, than prevails near the coast where I'm experimenting with all kinds under discussion at this time, yes, and disappointed with the results.

G. Veitchii is a variety introduced to the trade by Jas. Veitch and Son a number of years ago. It is the one now grown almost exclusively under glass, and the one so abun-

dant in our flower marts. And now we come to the most wonderful part of the story of Gardenias. Everybody in this Southland has heard of Tom Wright. He has been playing the game of florist for years. Of late years he has devoted his time to *growing* flowers for the wholesale flower market in Los Angeles. Gardenias were his speciality, of the Veitchii variety. Always on the "lookout" for the best in all h egrew, he obtained a species, maybe it is only a variety, from China that is superior in growth of plant and size of the flower, to any other species or variety under cultivation. What its behavior will be in the open in Pasadena under the same conditions as G. sinensis grandflora remains to be seen.

Of this plant Tom says "We are calling this Gardenia MYSTERY, due to the fact that we have traced its origin to China, and as yet no one has been able to classify it." The flowers have as many as 40 petals, and when full blown, are five inches in diameter. Disappointing as my experiences have been with all other species and varieties this new one shall have a trial as soon as plants are available. "Hope springs eternal in the human breast" and, like the woman who brought plants from Texas I shall concentrate on the idea of growing this marvel in the open in a garden, where rare things abound in abundance, and I dare to think I shall succeed.

## WATERING

Call it Sprinkling—Irrigation—or Watering —whatever you like—for Southern California it is surely one of our problems, as it means both time and money expended. And the old time quotation that "Time is Money" is quite out of fashion at the San Diego Water Office, but for this busy world we must conserve both.

When we lived in Illinois the heavens supervised the watering for an average of two thirds of the time during the summer, and this idea of doing it every night for nine months of the years when we came to San Diego, seemed alarming to me. I was told I must do it so I began. I found I was using two hours or more every day—two much time taken out of the total 24 hours we humans are given. But I have always assumed we are accountable for everything put in our charge, so I began thinking it over and experimenting. I tried the regular evening thorough sprinkling on half the lawn which had been fairly well fertilized —while on the other half I *soaked* the ground and then let it go for three or four days according to weather conditions. To tell the story in short, I did it the way the Lord of Heaven does—only of course, even then I was forced to temporize with Southern California conditions.

If you think you are properly watering dig down and see how far the moisture has gone. Maybe you will be fooled. One night my husband volunteered—spent 15 minutes and came in, calmly announcing "all done." After a rather warm discussion he was finally persuaded to *dig* and found he had wet the ground down a quarter of an inch. Your grass roots go down three to four inches ordinarily.

Now nature is very adaptable, and if you leave water only on top, the grass roots and plant roots will stay right there and the hot sun gets at them very easily and they never grow down. Whereas if you *wet* the ground down deep the roots will reach down for that moisture after the top dries, the first, second and third day which follows the soaking.

In one month the half of the lawn which received the nightly sprinkle was not so good as the half which had been given the same amount of water (by hourly count) in one good thorough soaking.

Then I began figuring on cost. I bought several sacks of fertilizer and used them very generously. I soon found that I was saving the cost of the fertilizer in each month's water bill. And my time was also saved.

Some plants and shrubs will tell you when they need a drink—some will die before they speak—you must learn their language. As for letting them wilt, I believe it is a costly way— for you must bring them back and any check to growth is undesirable.

If you are a real gardener, you will study the wants of each and every child in your garden, absolutely as you study human children.

As to top watering, here again try the Lord's way—he sprinkles the leaves when he knows the ground does not need it. Once in a while wash the dust off. Even a Palm or a Lantana hedge will appreciate it occasionally. While some plants, fuchsias, especially, will need it every evening during the hot weather, and the Red Spider and Thrip will not then attack them. Even the leaves of the Water Lilies in your pool are better for a good drenching. If the plant lices are on the leaves the hose will wash them into the water where some will die and the fish will enjoy eating some.

If a large tree or shrub is dry—turn the water so low it barely runs and leave the nozzle

at the root for an hour—then change to another. The water soaks in so much better that way and you spend no time holding a hose.

Maybe there is nothing new to you in all this. If not, then remember it is meant for the many whom I see making costly mistakes at the expense of their time, their pocketbook, as well as their lawns and plants. I have cut my water bills square in the middle, also my time. B. M. T.

## SHRUBS AND TREES FOR THE GARDEN

**By A. Osborn**

**(Ward, Lock & Co., Limited, London & Melbourne, 1933; £1, 1s.)**

Here we greet another book which is a real acquisition. The author is in charge of the arboretum at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; therefore, as stated in the preface, he possesses unrivalled qualifications for writing a comprehensive and practical manual covering the woody plants, and we are not disappointed in finding that he accomplishes his task in an outstanding way. Although written primarily from the standpoint of English practice, by far the greater mass of material collected is of general application anywhere. Just about every important aspect of the subject is thoroughly covered, from arrangement in the garden to fertilizers, from soil preparation to the choice of subjects for windswept and seaside planting. Propagation, pruning, tree surgery, planting and transplanting, diseases and pests, hedges, climbers, dwarfed subjects, lawn trees, topiary, may all be sought in their appropriate chapters. An extremely valuable feature is the inclusion of numerous very well selected lists of woody subjects classified according to such criteria as season of bloom, color of bloom and foliage, hardiness, habits, soil requirements, and the possession of catkins or berries. Merely to cite these is enough to indicate the tempting table spread. Somewhat more than half the book is comprised by an alphabetical encyclopaedic treatment of shrubs and trees according to genera. A simply and pleasantly written context is embellished with a wealth of well executed illustrations including eight beautiful plates in color, the whole making a thick volume of 576 pages. We are glad to note that it is not only well printed and bound, but exceptionally well indexed. It is a Vade-Mecum in its field which should be in every public library and most private ones. S. S. B.

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## VISITORS FROM FAR PLACES

Just as the enthusiast of the jig-saw puzzle likes best the puzzle that challenges his ability, so the more or less successful home gardener sometimes likes to experiment with difficult problems.

Months ago I received a number of seeds of the wild cypress, a native of western Texas. Of the fifty-odd little plants that poked their heads above ground, I was able to bring three to flowering maturity. But the result has been worth many times the effort of nursing them to the bloom. In my garden stand the tall plants, their long, graceful, cypress-like arms holding aloft showers of bright red stars.

Another stranger in my garden this summer was a plant grown from seed brought by a friend from the valley of the Nile. This gorgeous and much admired plant, although it resembled no flower so much as it did our snapdragon, had one thing in common with the California poinsettia. Its brilliant blossom is in reality a leaf.

It is impossible to say how much I have enjoyed entertaining these visitors from far places. Minnie Lee Harness.

## INFORMAL BORDERS

Many persons have treasured the memory of walking through fields of wild flowers—goldenrod, waist high, waving in the September breezes in the midwest; clover and daisies in midsummer in New England; poppies bordering fields of grain in Southern Europe; Black-Eyed Susans in late ripe wheat.

It is possible to combine the suggestion of these pleasant memories, in our San Diego gardens, and to keep, continuously, from January to late November, a waist-high border to our walks that is a continuously evolving mosaic of color.

In late November, when the "Mums" have given of their glory, the space for this informal friendly section of the garden is cleared as much as possible, although it is not necessary to take everything out. Heavy fertilization, at this time, is the secret of the tall growth and well fed look of the old friends as they come to maturity.

Many seeds from the past season are in the soil. Early in December, poppy-seed, a mixture of all kinds, is excellent, larkspur may also be added to this seeding. The tall, gray daisies will be coming from previous years; stock, antirrhinum plants fill in much of the available space in November, but the tulip and ranunculus bulbs have been tucked in. The penstemon has but been cut back, so furnishes green foliage long before its summer blooming, as does the Japanese anemone that blooms in September; the iris is scattered about this border. In January wild grass seed is scattered, more poppies, lobelia and Virginia Stock is then established to fringe the edges of the border and hide the lines of the bent-grass walk, but pansies and violas are tucked in to look at you from above the lobelia.

The daisies, all varieties, with abundance of white ones, are separated in January and scattered. Winter montbretia has been left in the soil to add warmth to the picture of the earliest aspects of this border.

As the season proceeds, the seedlings that come up are distributed, more seeds scattered, more bulbs added. Many kinds of iris lift their faces among the tall grasses, the daisies, poppies, stock and petunias.

In our garden this border which separates the walk from the lawn, flares to a fan at the foot of the walk and the lawn, suggesting more than ever the field massing. At this time, when the delphinium is just past, montbretia, gold and coppery gladiolus, painted daisies and very tall white daisies, with patches of corn flowers and coreopsis, form the waist-high field effect. As our friends stroll down this walk and sit on a bench to look over it, they always enjoy the way the breezes play in the color and almost always recall a wild garden that has imprinted itself upon their memories.

—Hazel Boyer Braun.

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## THE CULTIVATED CONIFERS IN NORTH AMERICA

### Comprising the Pine Family and the Taxads

### By L. H. Bailey

### (The Macmillan Co., 1933; $7.50)

When we heard that this was in the offing we anticipated that it would prove one of the outstanding horticultural books of the year. The event fully justifies the expectation. It is a superb volume, a credit alike to the author, to the publishers, and to American scholarship, one to hold up its head sturdily even in association with some of those beautiful English books which so often have aroused our patriotic envy. Not only does Dr. Bailey present a work competently performed, but one of enormous practical value to every horticulturist. To have brought within the close compass of a single cover not only an authentic modern botanical account of the numerous conifers which have found their way into our gardens from all over the world and the names under which they pass, but also information on how to grow and care for them, will save subsequent inquirers hours of laborious and distraught search. The availability of such a book will be sure to lead to a wider appreciation and use of the grandest group of plants in existence. The compilation of synoptic keys to the species is alone a priceless service, as

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may be better appreciated when it is observed that of pines alone no less than 55 species are included.

The botanical part of the work is naturally rather ponderous reading, but the remaining and more strictly horticultural portion is purely discursive, covering the part of conifers in the landscape, their cultivation and propagation, the practical experience of gardeners in various (colder) parts of the country, and the pests and ailments particularly affecting them. Most of these later chapters are compiled from essays and observations by a number of able contributing authors. We would have appreciated the addition of a chapter devoted to Californian experience and regret that it could not have been given us, as the list of these subjects amenable to our conditions is not only a long one, but totally different from that of any other state in the Union.

The book is a fine piece of printing and is magnificently illustrated. Both line drawings and photographs are used abundantly. The fact that the upper photograph on plate 40 appears to be upside down is the only criticism we find ourselves able to make.

S. S. B.

## HAVE OWN METHODS

*Iris "Growers" of Hemet Violate Some of the "Rules"*

Hemet.—Iris "fans" of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley have worked out their own cultural procedures in handling this showy perennial. It seems that the climate and soil of the region make necessary quite a few variations from the regular rules for iris growing.

To begin with, protection from the sun is needed to keep the delicate colors of the flowers from fading and the petals from burning. Certain varieties, as Wyomissing, Zwanenburg, Afterglow and Mother of Pearl, are particularly exacting in this respect. The other varieties grown in the district, numbering over 150 distinct types, seem to do well without this protection. Some residents, as a special precaution, however, grow iris beneath deciduous trees so that they will be in semi-shade during the blossoming period, but still receive ample sunlight in winter.

Another of the rules for growing iris which is consistently disregarded in the Hemet region has to do with fertilizers. Despite the warnings of experienced growers several of the local "fans" have used chicken manure—and with good results. Used with straw as a mulch in the summer, it has produced excellent growth the following spring. No turning under is attempted until late fall, by which time the whole mass of straw and manure is in a disintegrated state. During the summer frequent irrigations take place, too, something which would alarm many iris specialists, but which has worked out well here. No ill effects have resulted from the use of this organic matter or from that of other barnyard manure, which has also been utilized, though never in a fresh condition, as has chicken manure. Bone meal is often used the first year or two in iris plantings, as well as wood ashes.

The fact that the climate here is very hot and dry and the soil sandy may explain why certain gardeners in the Hemet district, as Mrs. David K. White, for instance, can ignore the usual procedures for growing iris. The soil is rather peculiar, being of great depth, well drained and rich in lime. As an illustration of what shade, manure and an abundance of water does for iris in the locality, Iris albicans grown under these conditions has at times reached a height of more than three feet with bloom the size of Edith Cavel. It was taken for some rare but unrecognized variety until an iris authority identified it as an unusually vigorous specimen of albicans. A number of bearded irises grown near San Jacinto have bloomed the first year from seed.

There are at least seven fairly large collections of iris in the Hemet-San Jacinto district and many gardens where ten to a dozen varieties are grown. Root rot, though not unknown, is negligible. Besides the Pogoniris group, members of other groups, as Apogon, Oncocyclus and Regelia have been grown with success. Iris stylosa, pseudacorus and tectorum have made themselves at home. A clump of Morea iridoides is outstanding in one garden, while sisyrinchium lends a note of unusual interest in another. A seedling of Regelia stoloniferа eighteen months old has flourished in the planting of Mrs. White. L. A. Times.—

## LILIES

Black mire of slime and stench;
Green pools upon it cupped—
Yet pure and virgin white
The lilies rose abrupt.
Muck made pure and undefiled
Where,as a lily, God's love smiled.

—T. Page Wright.

From The Flower Triad in Shadows in Moonlight.

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